

main line of resistance known as the "Hook," on the Jamestown Line. It was during an assault on the outpost Seattle, in front of the Jamestown Line, when Weisgerber was severely wounded. He refused medical treatment and courageously moved forward to aid a wounded comrade, fearlessly exposing himself to intense hostile fire. His wounds later resulted in the loss of his leg. In recognition of his bravery and valor, he was awarded the Navy Cross and Purple Heart for his actions that night. During this time, Weisgerber was on track to receive a promotion. Unfortunately, he was medically discharged due to the wounds he received at outpost Seattle, thus making him ineligible for promotion.

Weisgerber returned to the United States to start his family with his high school sweetheart and wife Marianne, eventually settling in the Bay Area. Despite being medically discharged and now age 81, Weisgerber has remained committed to the Marine Corps and continues to serve and exhibit true volunteerism. He helps young Marines adjust to civilian life, find jobs, and obtain military benefits once they leave the service. Weisgerber continues to counsel generations of amputee veterans and other returning veterans at the Palo Alto Veterans Hospital and the Menlo Park Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Center. His own story of perseverance is an inspiration to wounded veterans and to the entire Marine Corps. In my district, the Marines of the 4th Marine Logistic Group, Marine Forces Reserve always speak highly of Weisgerber, often praising him as the epitome of the Marine Corps. He is continuously present, providing a helping hand to the Marines in every possible way.

Weisgerber's commitment extends to the broader community as well. He served three terms as the Mayor of Milpitas and currently sits on numerous boards and commissions in the Bay Area on issues ranging from transportation to veterans' affairs. His accomplishments in the community are noteworthy, and they speak to a lifetime spent dutifully serving others.

William D. Weisgerber has worked tirelessly for the past 58 years as a "retired" Marine and has asked for nothing in return. However, grateful Marines touched by Weisgerber's unwavering service have campaigned on his behalf to see that he is deservedly recognized. On December 5, 2011, Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus, in accordance with section 1563 of title 10, U.S. Code, approved the honorary promotion of Staff Sergeant Weisgerber to Gunnery Sergeant due to his selfless dedication to our country.

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday, January 28th 2012, Staff Sergeant William "Denny" Weisgerber will finally receive the promotion that he has deserved for six decades. I proudly commend Gunnery Sergeant William "Denny" Weisgerber for his commitment and noble service to our Marines, veterans, community and country. His daily sacrifice to our community and the Marine Corps is extraordinary.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. ADAM SMITH

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, January 23, 2012, I was unable to be

present for recorded votes. Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 5 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 3117, as amended) and "yes" on rollcall vote No. 6 (on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1141).

#### RECOGNIZING COLONEL CHARLES YOUNG

#### HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the important contributions of Colonel Charles Young, a Buffalo Soldier whose historic home is in my community in Southwest Ohio.

As a Member of the House Armed Services Committee and Co-Chair of the House Historic Preservation Caucus, I have the privilege of frequently working with our servicemembers as well as a great appreciation for our nation's historic treasures.

Colonel Young, the third African-American to graduate from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1889, was a distinguished officer in the U.S. Army. He was a pioneer of military intelligence techniques, a commander of troops in combat in the Spanish-American War and the Mexican expedition against Pancho Villa.

His first assignment after graduation was with the Buffalo Soldiers in the 10th Cavalry in Nebraska, and then with the 9th and 10th Cavalries in Utah. With the outbreak of the Spanish-American War, he was reassigned as Second Lieutenant to training duty at Camp Alger, Virginia.

In 1903, then-Captain Young was in command of the 10th Cavalry stationed at the Presidio of San Francisco. That summer, with the Army responsible for its management, Colonel Young was assigned to serve as Acting Superintendent of Sequoia National Park in California.

Colonel Young was then awarded a commission as a Major in the Ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. Later, during the Spanish-American War, he commanded a squadron of the 10th Cavalry Buffalo Soldiers in Cuba. Throughout his military career, Colonel Young distinguished himself in service to our nation with the Buffalo Soldiers of the 9th and 10th Cavalries, and the 25th Infantry, as well as serving as Professor of Military Science at Wilberforce University, Ohio.

Today we seek to honor the continuing legacy and leadership of the Buffalo Soldiers. Colonel Charles Young stands out as a shining example of the dedication, service, and commitment of the Buffalo Soldiers throughout United States and world history.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad to recognize the important historical contributions of Buffalo Soldiers such as Colonel Young.

#### HONORING LUCAS J. OBORNY

#### HON. SAM GRAVES

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I proudly pause to recognize Lucas J. Oborny.

Lucas is a very special young man who has exemplified the finest qualities of citizenship and leadership by taking an active part in the Boy Scouts of America, Troop 395, and earning the most prestigious award of Eagle Scout.

Lucas has been very active with his troop, participating in many scout activities. Over the many years Lucas has been involved with scouting, he has not only earned numerous merit badges, but also the respect of his family, peers, and community. Most notably, Lucas has contributed to his community through his Eagle Scout project.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Lucas J. Oborny for his accomplishments with the Boy Scouts of America and for his efforts put forth in achieving the highest distinction of Eagle Scout.

#### CELEBRATING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR

#### HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 25, 2012

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I wish to recognize and celebrate the beginning of the Chinese New Year. On January 23, 2012, we marked year 4710 of the lunisolar Chinese calendar. In my Congressional District, in the windy city of Chicago, there are well over 68,000 Chicagoans with Chinese heritage. We are very proud that Chicago boasts one of the largest populations of Chinese Americans, with the second largest Chinatown in the nation. Many of these Chicagoans reside or work in the historical neighborhood of Chinatown just south of the loop area. Chicago was one of the first cities that Chinese immigrants called home, with the first immigrants arriving during the 1870s. Since then, the Chinese community in Chicago has flourished and greatly enriched the culture and heritage of our city.

This New Year is the Year of the Dragon, the most powerful of all the animals—an animal whose power and strength are admired. The Chinese New Year is a chance for a new beginning and a chance for all of us to reflect on our blessings, such as family, friends, opportunities and cherished moments. The New Year also provides an opportunity for us to settle our disputes with loved ones and to help people less fortunate than we are. I am blessed with having many close friends within the Chinese-American community. I have shared many important moments with these friends, both in Chinatown and at my house on the West Side. Through these relationships, I have developed a profound appreciation for Chinese culture, including the Chinese New Year celebration.

I recognize the new beginning brought by the spring festival, and I wish the Chinese community in Chicago and in the United States a memorable and prosperous New Year. I look forward to celebrating the Year of the Dragon on January 29 with the annual Chinese New Year parade. Aside from this incredible celebration, there are multiple opportunities throughout the year to experience the history and culture of the Chinese-American community, be it the dragon boat races, the concerts in Ping Tom Park, or the tours of our historic China Town. I wish all a Gong Hei Fat Choy.